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EXAMINER	
COUGHLAN, PETER D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2129	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/824,106	KUMAR, JANAKI P.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PETER COUGHLAN	2129	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 April 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9,13-16,18 and 20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9,13-16,18 and 20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *4/14/2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

1. This office action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered February 13, 2008 for the patent application 10/824106 filed on April 14, 2004.

2. All previous Office Actions fully incorporated into this Non-Final Office Action by reference.

Status of Claims

3. Claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, 20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thurlow et al, in view of Flanagan. (U. S. Patent 6057841, referred to as **Thurlow**; 'Java in a Nutshell', referred to as **Flanagan**)

Claim 1

Thurlow teaches displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display device of a computer, the GUI including a representation of a condition of a user defined rule to process textual information and a representation of an action of a user defined rule to process the textual information (**Thurlow,** Figure 6a; 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow.), wherein the condition includes an attribute name, an operator, and an attribute value (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.) and wherein the action includes an action name and an action value (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.), receiving user input via the

GUI. (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34; 'Receiving user input' of applicant is equivalent to 'the user works through the process of selecting available conditions' of Thurlow.)

Thurlow does not teach the user inputs indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Flanagan,** p66-67; 'Create a rule template' of applicant is equivalent to 'defining a class' of Flanagan.) creating in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; An example of 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public double x, y' of Flanagan. An example of 'action' of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule; wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule; wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule.

Flanagan teaches the user inputs indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Flanagan,** p66-67; 'Create a rule template' of applicant is equivalent to 'defining a class' of Flanagan.) creating in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of

the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; An example of 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public double x, y' of Flanagan. An example of 'action' of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the example cited, 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to the class 'point' of Flanagan. Using the cited example, 'corresponding condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, 'attribute value placeholder' of applicant is equivalent to 'double x, y' of Flanagan.) wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, the actual name of the action of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, the 'action value placeholder' of applicant is the input value memory locations for the class 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan. The specific memory allocations are not recited due to the fact it is inherent with the use of a class.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Thurlow by identifying components of a class

of object oriented programming as taught by Flanagan to have the user inputs indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Flanagan,** p66-67; 'Create a rule template' of applicant is equivalent to 'defining a class' of Flanagan.) creating in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; An example of 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public double x, y' of Flanagan. An example of 'action' of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule; wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule; wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule.

For the purpose of the user to utilize existing classes or creates new classes for computational purposes.

Thurlow teaches receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder (**Thurlow,** C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input

that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow.), creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information, the second user defined rule being based on the rule template and including the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder(**Thurlow,** C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information' is equivalent to users editing a rule of Thurlow.), storing the second user defined rule in a computer readable medium on a storage device for later use in processing textual information(**Thurlow,** C2:19-46; 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow.), wherein the second user defined rule includes a condition that includes the attribute name of the condition of the rule template, the operator of the condition of the rule template, an attribute value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder(**Thurlow,** C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of

Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), and wherein the second user defined rule further includes an action that includes the action name of the action of the rule template and an action value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. . 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), using the second user defined rule to process incoming textual information received from a customer system (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.), and triggering the action of the second user defined rule when the incoming textual information satisfies the condition of the second user defined rule. (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow.)

Claim 2

Thurlow teaches wherein the storing the rule template in a computer readable medium on a storage device comprises storing the rule template in a repository that is accessible to the user. (**Thurlow,** Fig. 1; Thurlow illustrates a

hard drive, magnetic disk drive, and a optical disk interface which are memory devices and are connected to the monitor which the user has access to.)

Claim 3

Thurlow teaches wherein the user-defined rule contains a plurality of conditions that each includes an attribute name, an operator, and an attribute value. (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.)

Claim 4

Thurlow teaches wherein the conditions of the user-defined rule are connected by at least one logical operator. (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25; Thurlow illustrates the 'comparison operator' connects the 'property' and the 'value'.)

Claim 5

Thurlow teaches wherein the rule template contains a plurality of conditions that each correspond to one of the conditions of the user-defined rule and that each include the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user-defined rule. (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25;

'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow.)

Claim 6

Thurlow teaches wherein the conditions of the rule template are connected by at least one logical operator. (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25; Thurlow illustrates the 'comparison operator' connects the 'property' and the 'value'.)

Claim 7

Thurlow teaches wherein the attribute-value placeholder in the condition of the rule template includes at least one placeholder symbol and a placeholder name. (**Thurlow,** C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. Thus the 'symbol' of applicant is equivalent to the 'underlined portion' of the rule description. The 'placeholder name' of applicant is illustrated by the characters which are underlined in the rule description.)

Claim 8

Thurlow teaches wherein the placeholder name is based on the attribute name of the corresponding condition of the user-defined rule. (**Thurlow,** Figure 6b; 'Placeholder name is based on the attribute name' of applicant is illustrated in fig. 6b by having the placeholder name of 'an address list' which relates to a list of addresses.)

Claim 9

Thurlow teaches wherein the incoming textual information comprises textual information contained in email messages or in search queries. (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.)

Claim 13

Thurlow teaches wherein the user defined rule contains a plurality of actions that each includes an action name and a value. (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.)

Claim 14

Thurlow teaches wherein the rule template contains a plurality of actions that each correspond to one of the actions of the user defines rule and that each

include the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Thurlow,** C15:36-47; Thurlow describes rule template which contain combinations of discrete conditions and actions.)

Claim 15

Thurlow teaches wherein the value placeholder in the action of the rule template includes at least one placeholder symbol and a placeholder name. (**Thurlow,** C2:38-46, C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25, Figure 6b; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions. Thus the 'symbol' of applicant is equivalent to the 'underlined portion' of the rule description. The 'placeholder name' of applicant is illustrated by the characters which are underlined in the rule description.)

Claim 16

Thurlow teaches wherein the placeholder name is based on the action name of the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Thurlow,** Figure 7b; 'Placeholder name is based on the action name' of applicant is illustrated in fig. 7b by having the placeholder name of 'hiking' which relates to a placing all emails which match a SOC hiking information to be placed within a 'hiking folder.)

Claim 18

Thurlow teaches display a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display device of a computer, the GUI including a representation of a condition of a user defined to process textual information [information] and a representation of an action of the user defined rule to process textual information'(**Thurlow,** Figure 6a; 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow.), wherein the condition includes an attribute name, an operator, and an attribute value (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.) and, wherein the action includes an action name and an action value(**Thurlow,** C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.); receive user input via the GUI. (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34; 'Receiving user input' of applicant is equivalent to 'the user works through the process of selecting available conditions' of Thurlow.)

Thurlow does not teach the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user

defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule.

Flanagan teaches the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Flanagan,** p66-67; 'Create a rule template' of applicant is equivalent to 'defining a class' of Flanagan.); create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; An example of 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public double x, y' of Flanagan. An example of 'action' of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the example cited, 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to the class 'point' of Flanagan. Using the cited example, 'corresponding condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute

value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, 'attribute value placeholder' of applicant is equivalent to 'double x, y' of Flanagan.) wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, the actual name of the action of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, the 'action value placeholder' of applicant is the input value memory locations for the class 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan. The specific memory allocations are not recited due to the fact it is inherent with the use of a class.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Thurlow by identifying components of a class of object oriented programming as taught by Flanagan to have the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule

template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule.

For the purpose of the user to utilize existing classes or creates new classes for computational purposes.

Thurlow teaches receive a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value placeholder(**Thurlow,** C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow.); create in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information, the second user defined rule being based on the rule template and including the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder(**Thurlow,** C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information' is equivalent to users editing a rule of Thurlow.); storing the second user defined rule in computer readable medium on a storage device for later use in processing textual information (**Thurlow,** C2:19-46; 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow.), wherein the second user defined rule includes a

condition that includes the attribute name of the condition of the rule template, the operator of the condition of the attribute value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), and wherein the second user defined rule further includes an action that includes the action name of the action of the rule template and an action value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. . 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), using the second user defined rule to process incoming textual information received from a customer system (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.); and triggering the action of the second user defined rule when the incoming textual information satisfies the condition of the second user defined

rule. (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow.)

Claim 20

Thurlow teaches display a graphical user interface (GUI) on a display device of a computer, the GUI including a representation of a condition of a user defined rule to process textual information and a representation of an action of the user defined rule to process textual information (**Thurlow,** Figure 6a; 'GUI' of applicant is equivalent to the screen shot (item 600) of Thurlow.), wherein the condition includes an attribute name, an operator and a attribute value (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow.); receive user input via the GUI. (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow.)

Thurlow does not teach the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule.

Flanagan teaches the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template (**Flanagan,** p66-67; 'Create a rule template' of applicant is equivalent to 'defining a class' of Flanagan.) create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; An example of 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public double x, y' of Flanagan. An example of 'action' of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the example cited, 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to the class 'point' of

Flanagan. Using the cited example, 'corresponding condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'public' of Flanagan.) wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, 'attribute value placeholder' of applicant is equivalent to 'double x, y' of Flanagan.) wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, the actual name of the action of applicant is equivalent to 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan.) wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule. (**Flanagan,** p66-67; Using the cited example, the 'action value placeholder' of applicant is the input value memory locations for the class 'distanceFromOrigin()' of Flanagan. The specific memory allocations are not recited due to the fact it is inherent with the use of a class.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Thurlow by identifying components of a class of object oriented programming as taught by Flanagan to have the user input indicating the user defined rule is to be used to create a rule template create, in response to the received user input, a rule template having a condition that is based upon the condition of the user defined rule and an action that is based upon the action of the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template includes the attribute name and the operator from the corresponding condition of

the user defined rule wherein the condition of the rule template further includes an attribute value placeholder that is associated with the attribute value from the corresponding condition of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes the action name from the corresponding action of the user defined rule wherein the action of the rule template further includes action value placeholder that is associated with the action value from the corresponding action of the user defined rule.

For the purpose of the user to utilize existing classes or creates new classes for computational purposes.

Thurlow teaches received a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'receiving a second user input that indicates a value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and a value to be used in place of the action value place holder' is equivalent to allowing users to editing a rule of Thurlow.); and create in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information, the second user defined rule being based on the rule template and including the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder and the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C3:22-32; Thurlow indicates that multiple users are allowed to build and edit rules. Thus 'creating in response to the second user input, a second user defined rule to process textual information' is equivalent to users editing a rule of Thurlow.); storing the second user defined rule in computer readable medium on a storage

device for later use in processing textual information (**Thurlow,** C2:19-46; 'Storing' of applicant is equivalent to 'the rule is then stored' of Thurlow.), wherein the second user defined rule includes a condition that includes the attribute name of the condition of the rule template, the operator of the condition of the rule template, an attribute value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the attribute value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C10:13-25, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Condition' of applicant is equivalent to the Boolean expression for each natural language condition or exception clause is of the form : [property], [comparison of], and [value] of Thurlow. It follows that 'attribute name' of applicant is equivalent to 'property' of Thurlow. 'Operator' of applicant is equivalent to 'comparison of' of Thurlow. 'Attribute value' of applicant is equivalent to 'value' of Thurlow. 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.), and wherein the second user defined rule further includes an action that includes the action name of the action of the rule template and an action value corresponding to the value to be used in place of the action value placeholder (**Thurlow,** C10:26-34, C10:64 through C11:25; 'Action' of applicant is equivalent to the machine readable format for each natural language action clause is of the form: [action], [parameter 1], [parameter 2], …,[parameter n]. It follows that 'Action name' of applicant is equivalent to 'action' of Thurlow. 'Action value' of applicant is equivalent to 'parameter 1' of Thurlow. . 'Placeholders' of applicant is equivalent to 'variables' of Thurlow. The variables of Thurlow are indicted by the underlined portions.); using the second user defined rule to process incoming textual information

received from a customer system (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Textual information' of applicant is equivalent to 'e-mail' of Thurlow.); and triggering the action of the second user defined rule when the incoming textual information satisfies the condition of the second user defined rule. (**Thurlow,** C1:22-54; 'Triggering the action' of applicant is equivalent to 'automatically execute specific tasks' of Thurlow. 'Satisfies the condition' of applicant is equivalent to 'when user provided criteria are met' of Thurlow.)

Conclusion

5. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

-U. S. Patent Publication 20030014545: Broussard

-U. S. Patent Publication 20020184409: Broussard

-U. S. Patent Publication 20020083087: Deuser

-U. S. Patent Publication 20010014899: Fujikawa

-U. S. Patent 6934750: Hijikata

6. Claims 1-9, 13-16, 18, 20 are rejected.

Correspondence Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Examiner Peter Coughlan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-5990. The Examiner can be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor David Vincent can be reached at (571) 272-3080. Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,

Washington, D. C. 20231;

Hand delivered to:

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Customer Service Window,

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401 Dulany Street,

Alexandria, Virginia 22313,

(located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building);

or faxed to:

(571) 272-3150 (for formal communications intended for entry.)

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/P. C./

Examiner, Art Unit 2129

Peter Coughlan

5/9/2008

/Joseph P. Hirl/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2129